

## **7.7 POLICE SERVICE DOG UNIT (PSDU)**

### **7.7.1 POLICE SERVICE DOG UNIT PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

Revised April 14, 2015

The Patrol Bureau will have audit responsibility.

The PSDU was established to supplement police services to the community. Highly skilled and trained teams of handlers and canines are used to assist police operations to locate individuals and contraband, and to apprehend criminal offenders.

#### **7.7.1.1 POLICE SERVICE DOG UNIT FUNCTION**

Revised April 14, 2015

The PSDU operates as a support police unit, and provides the following general and specialized law enforcement services:

- a) Searches for missing persons, suspects and evidence
- b) General patrol functions
- c) Crowd control
- d) Specialized security assignments
- e) Public relations appearances and demonstrations
- f) SWAT activations and other activities as may be deemed appropriate by the Department
- g) Assists other agencies
- h) Detection of narcotics, dangerous drugs, explosives, and firearms

#### **7.7.1.2 POLICE SERVICE DOG UNIT DISPATCH**

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A PSDU operates as a one officer patrol unit and should be dispatched according to those procedures.

### **7.7.2 POLICE SERVICE DOG (PSD) DEPLOYMENT**

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The prompt and proper utilization of a trained PSD has proven to be a valuable resource in law enforcement. A PSD greatly increases the degree of safety to citizens within a contained search area, enhances individual officer safety, significantly increases the likelihood of suspect apprehension, and dramatically reduces the amount of time necessary to conduct a search. The decision to use a PSD in accordance with this policy shall be deemed an act of discretion and shall be reviewed in light of information reasonably available to the officer(s) at the time the decision was made.

#### **7.7.2.1 DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

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Prior to the deployment of a PSD to search for, or apprehend any individual, the handler and/or supervisor at the scene shall carefully consider all pertinent information reasonably available at the time. This information shall include, but is not limited to:

- a) The nature and severity of the suspected offense
- b) Potential danger to the public that may result from the release of a PSD
- c) Potential risk to the suspect(s)

In all instances, a field supervisor shall be notified of an incident when a PSD has been requested. When feasible, a PSDU should respond to the Incident Commander's location for briefing prior to deployment.

In all cases where cover officers are assigned to assist with a PSD search, the cover officer(s) shall remain with the handler, unless directed otherwise by the handler.

The PSD handler will determine the search tactics to be utilized and coordinate the deployment of assisting officers. The final decision to deploy a PSD shall rest with the handler; however, an Incident Commander or Supervisor may order a PSD not to deploy.

A PSD may be used to apprehend an individual if any of the following conditions exist:

- a) The handler reasonably believes that the individual has either committed or has threatened to commit any felony or violent misdemeanor offense
- b) There is a reasonable belief that the individual poses an immediate threat of violence or serious harm to the public or any officer
- c) The individual is physically resisting or is threatening to resist arrest and the use of a PSD appears necessary to overcome such resistance
- d) The individual is believed to be concealed in an area where entry by other than a PSD would pose a threat to the safety of officers or the public
- e) Searches for suspects wanted for grand theft auto shall be limited to those who are reasonably believed to be adults, and are reasonably believed to be the driver of a confirmed stolen vehicle; known passengers, absent extenuating circumstances, should not be searched for with the use of a PSD
- f) Searches for juvenile offenders, whether or not the subject is believed to be armed, shall be limited to those instances where the severity of the crime, the subject's age, propensity for violence or other factors, would reasonably justify the use of a PSD search team; an on-scene field supervisor must first authorize the use of a PSD on a known juvenile

### **7.7.2.2 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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A clear, loud and audible verbal search announcement, followed by a reasonable period of compliance shall precede the release of any PSD. When appropriate and when resources are available, the announcement will be made in accordance with the City of Long Beach Language Access Policy.

When feasible, PSDU personnel will drive the perimeter of an incident and make a PSD search announcement utilizing the public address system of their police vehicle. The

use of stationary vehicles' public address systems and the helicopter's public address system may also be used.

### **7.7.2.3 ANNOUNCEMENT EXCEPTION**

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When conducting searches for suspects believed to be armed, concerns for the safety of search personnel may dictate that a PSD search announcement not be made. Any exception to this announcement policy must be fully justified by conditions and circumstances in a specific incident that create officer or public safety concerns exceeding those that may typically be associated with PSD deployment operations.

The decision not to make a PSD search announcement must be approved by the Incident Commander.

### **7.7.3 POLICE SERVICE DOG CONTACTS AND INVESTIGATIONS**

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The Patrol Bureau will have audit responsibility.

A PSD contact is defined as any occasion where a PSD bites any person, or is the proximate cause of any injury to a person outside of a training environment.

In situations where a PSD finds and contacts a suspect, the handler will call off the PSD at the first reasonable moment the PSD can be safely released. When deciding to call off the PSD, particular attention must be given to the perceived threat or actual resistance presented by the suspect.

#### **7.7.3.1 POLICE SERVICE DOG CONTACTS AND INVESTIGATIONS**

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If a PSD contact occurs, the PSD handler will ensure the subject receives medical treatment. The PSDU handler will request the PSDU Sergeant or their designee to respond to the incident.

Prior to going off duty, the PSD handler shall complete all necessary reports associated with the deployment of a PSD when appropriate. The reports shall include:

- a) The circumstances surrounding the deployment and contact by the PSD
- b) Method of announcements
- c) The justification for not making a PSD search announcement, if an announcement is not conducted
- d) The duration of the PSD contact with a suspect
- e) The name of the involved field supervisor and Watch Commander
- f) The PSD handler will advise assisting officers to make reference to the supplemental report(s) written by the PSD handler in their report and advise assisting officer they are not to describe PSD contact incidents in their respective reports

**7.7.3.2 PSDU SERGEANT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Revised April 14, 2015

After notification of a PSD contact, the PSDU Sergeant, or their designee, will immediately respond to the incident and conduct a use of force investigation. All other UOF policies and requirements apply to PSD contacts. For further information see 7.1.2 USE OF FORCE.

The PSDU Sergeant will track all PSD contacts and monitor the PSDU's contact ratio.

**7.7.3.3 ASSISTANCE TO OTHER AGENCIES**

Revised April 14, 2015

The Watch Commander or an on-duty lieutenant is authorized to approve requests from outside agencies for assistance from the PSDU. In all situations involving the deployment of a Long Beach PSDU for another jurisdiction, Long Beach Police Department deployment policies shall apply.

**7.7.4 ASSISTANCE TO OTHER AGENCIES**

Revised April 14, 2015

The Patrol Bureau will have audit responsibility.

The deployment policies, training, and experience of PSD teams from outside agencies can vary significantly. Similarly, deployment and force policies of other departments can differ from our own. The use of PSDs from other agencies should only be requested when Long Beach PSDs are unavailable, or fully committed.

When circumstances dictate the need to utilize a PSD from another agency, the Watch Commander must approve the deployment of another agency's PSD. Such a deployment shall be consistent with Long Beach Police Department policy.

In situations where an outside agency PSD is used and a contact occurs, the Watch Commander will be notified. The PSDU Sergeant, or designee, shall respond and conduct an immediate follow-up investigation. Additionally, the PSDU Sergeant, or designee, shall request the PSD Handler from the outside agency prepare a detailed statement of facts to the Watch Commander explaining the events. The ultimate responsibility to file the follow-up report is that of the PSDU Sergeant or their designee.

**7.7.5 MEDICAL CARE OF THE POLICE SERVICE DOG**

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The Patrol Bureau will have audit responsibility.

All medical attention shall be rendered by the designated PSD veterinarian, except during an emergency as provide in section 7.8.5.2 EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE OF THE POLICE SERVICE DOG. The PSD handler will direct a memorandum to the PSD Sergeant articulating the circumstances surrounding the need for medical attention and the treatment received.

**7.7.5.1 NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE OF THE POLICE SERVICE DOG**

Revised April 14, 2015

If a PSD is unfit for duty because of illness or injury, the assigned officer will inform the PSDU Sergeant as soon as practical. Unless otherwise directed, the officer will report to the PSDU Sergeant, or designee, for assignment.

**7.7.5.2 EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE OF THE POLICE SERVICE DOG**

Revised April 14, 2015

The PSD handler will notify the PSDU Sergeant as soon as practical when emergency medical care for the PSD is required.

Depending on the severity of the injury or illness, the PSD shall either be treated by the designated PSD veterinarian or transported to a designated emergency medical facility for treatment. If the PSD handler and PSD are out of the area, the handler may use the nearest available veterinarian.

**7.7.6 PSDU - TRAINING**

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The Patrol Bureau will have audit responsibility.

Before assignment in the field, each PSDU shall be trained and certified to meet current POST guidelines.

The PSDU Sergeant shall be responsible for scheduling periodic training for all department personnel in order to familiarize them with how to conduct themselves in the presence of department PSDs.